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CBC Newsletter

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 47 December 2001/January 2002 Number 6

Out to the Banks for the Winter Meeting

The Carolina Bird Club Winter meeting will be headquartered at Nags Head on the North Carolina Outer Banks January 25-27. Registration will begin at the Comfort Inn Oceanfront at 10:00 AM Friday, January 25.

The area offers outstanding birding. Winter is probably the best season. Some winters (such as 1993-94) have seen large invasions of alcids. There is an excellent chance of seeing Red-necked Grebe, or possibly a Harlequin Duck. We will search for a Ross' Goose among hundreds of Snow Geese. Eurasian Wigeons have been winter regulars at Pea Island over the past several years, and individual male Cinnamon Teal have made appearances on the ponds at both Bodie and Pea Islands. With any luck we could see Glaucous and Iceland Gulls at Cape Point and possibly a Thayer's or California Gull. Although a pelagic trip is being offered, remember that the above species are seen on shore. Interesting passerine spottings have included species such as Lark Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and (very recently) Sprague's Pipit. We may be able to get good looks at both species of Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

A variety of field trips will be offered, each led by an experienced birder. None will require strenuous walking. Friday field trips are scheduled for the Nags Head/Pea Island area and also at several hot spots convenient to routes leading to the Outer Banks.

Much of Friday night's program following a social hour beginning at 5:00 PM will be dedicated to providing information on Saturday's field trips. Mike Tove will give a short talk on his new book, *Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the North Atlantic*. The guide became available in 2000, and is indispensable to those interested in identifying ocean-dwelling animals along our coast. The guide contains detailed artwork, natural history and distribution of all the birds, whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles of the northern Atlantic Ocean. Mike will be available after the program for a book signing.

The chief feature of Saturday night's program will be our speaker, Chris Canfield, who is director of the North Carolina Audubon. He will enlighten us about opportunities for birders in the Carolinas to get involved in various current bird conservation initiatives. As Chris will explain, this is a critical time for preservation of bird habitats, in particular. He will present a number of options both for individuals as well as the Carolina Bird Club to become active in preserving the species and birding spots we so dearly love.

As has been the case for previous meetings in this area, the Comfort Inn Oceanfront in Nags Head will be our headquarters. For those who have stayed at this hotel before, take note that both the building and rooms have been recently renovated. This seven story motel is located at Milepost 17 on the beach road, 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road. It is easily visible from the intersection of US 64/264 and NC 12 in Nags Head. The special double occupancy rate for our meeting is $45.95 (bayside) and $ 59.95 (oceanfront) plus 10 % tax. You may use the reservation form in the newsletter or call 1-800-334-3302 and identify yourself as a CBC meeting participant. **Deadline for reservations is 12/22.** Rooms reserved after this date may or may not be available at the reduced meeting rate.

In the event the Comfort Inn fills early there will be a few other motels open including the Quality Inn Sea Oatel, 0.4 mi. north of the Comfort Inn (252-441-7191, and the Duke of Dare Motel in Manteo (252-473-2175).

The Comfort Inn will provide an early continental breakfast (included in room rate), and your registration packet will contain a list of restaurants open at the time of our meeting. If your Saturday field trip schedule is such that you will be between Nags Head and Hatteras around midday it is highly advisable that you carry a lunch and drink.

The weather will be good. It is common knowledge that winter weather on the outer Banks can be rough. But sometimes the roughest weather can produce the best birds. On the other hand, there are often "blue bird days" in January. So either way the weather will be good. Just be prepared for either situation, meanwhile thanking God there will be no mosquitoes. Well, not many.

Any questions or concerns about the meeting should be directed to the meeting coordinator, Susan Campbell, at (910) 949-3207 or ncaves@utinet.net.

Craig Sasser, a Refuge Biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services, presented an overview of the work he has done for the past four years at Santee NWR for the management of waterfowl and songbirds.

Thanks for a Super Santee Weekend

A big thanks to Carol Richard and all the field trip leaders for a great weekend. Here's a little of what you missed if you weren't there.

John and Cathy Sills. John introduced us to some rare and seldom see birds and their habitats.

CBC Winter Meeting, Nag's Head, NC
January 25-27, 2002
Field Trips

Schedule

Friday, January 25

EN ROUTE TO NAGS HEAD

9 AM-Noon	#1	Goldsboro Sewerage Lagoons
12:00 Noon	#2	Pungo NWR
12:00 Noon	#3	Mattamuskeet NWR
1:00 PM	#4	Lake Phelps/Pocosin Lakes NWR
1:00 PM	#5	Alligator River NWR

AFTER ARRIVAL IN NAG'S HEAD

1:00 PM	#6	Hatteras Point*
1:00 PM	#7	Pea Island
1:30 PM	#8	Bodie Island/Pea Island
1:30 PM	#9	Nag's Head Woods

Saturday, January 26

ALL-DAY

6:30 AM	#10	Pelagic Trip
7:00 AM	#11	Hatteras Pt./Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry/ Pea Island*
7:15 AM	#12	Pea Island/Hatteras Point*
7:30 AM	#13	Oregon Inlet/Pea Island/Hatteras Point*

HALF-DAY MORNING

7:00 AM	#14	Oregon Inlet/North Pond
7:15 AM	#15	Bodie Island/Pea Island
7:30 AM	#16	Nags Head/Wanchese

HALF-DAY AFTERNOON

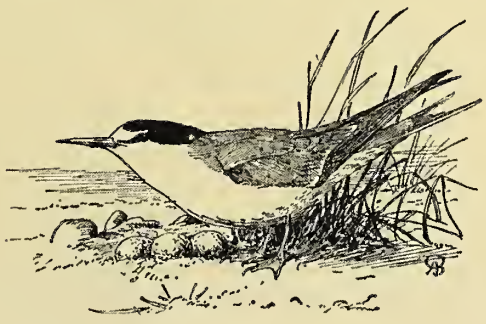
1:00 PM	#17	Bodie Island/Pea Island
1:30 PM	#18	Wanchese/Nags Head
1:30 PM	#19	Alligator River NWR

*Participants with 4-WD vehicles, please specify on registration form. We will need to car pool.

Sunday, January 27

HALF-DAY MORNING

7:30 AM	#20	Pine Island Sanctuary



Field Trip Descriptions

This meeting's field trip leaders a re not just guides familiar with the geography, but are also experts who will make the experience more rewarding. The first four trips listed below for Friday are to birding hot spots which are fairly conveniently located in relation to routes leading to Nag's Head. Trips 6, 7 and 8 are recommended for those taking Saturday's pelagic trip.

***Notice:** South Pond on Pea Island is usually off-limits to everyone except National Wildlife Refuge Personnel. We are privileged to make several visits to South Pond because the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing us with designated guides at the times specified in the trip descriptions below. **Going into South Pond at any other time is strictly forbidden**. Also, as a matter of ethics, it is requested that Saturday morning birding at Hatteras Point be limited to those participating in organized, scheduled trips. People birding "on their own" could easily spook the gull flocks and spoil the day for others. They should plan to go in the afternoon.

FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip No. 1: Goldsboro Sewerage Lagoons.

This area is predictably productive in winter. There will be a good variety of waterfowl, and it is the only place in North Carolina where Eared Grebes are reliably present. For those coming on Highway 70 from the west, after reaching Goldsboro, turn right onto Highway 117 South. Proceed 3.3 miles and turn left onto SR 581 (Arrington Bridge Rd.) and cross the Neuse River at 1.5 mi. Immediately past the bridge, turn off on a drive to the right where you will meet your guide. There should be plenty of birds to scope out between 9:00 AM until Noon.

Trip No. 2: Pungo National Wildlife Refuge.

With any luck, the huge flock of Snow Geese will be in the fields near Pungo Lake, and among them is the best chance of spotting a Ross's Goose - a North Carolina rarity. Golden Eagles have also been found at Pungo. Keep your eyes peeled for black bears as well. It way be a good idea to catch lunch in Washington, NC before proceeding east on highway 264 to the community of Pantego, where you will meet your guide at the corner of Highways 264 and 99 North for a 12:00 Noon departure.

Trip No. 3: Mattamuskeet NWR.

Mattamuskeet is legendary for its variety and numbers of wintering waterfowl. Also in recent years, quite a variety of Passerines have been found lingering in the thick vegetation at the refuge – especially along the causeway across the lake. Either species of eagle is a possibility as well. Your tour will begin at Noon at the refuge headquarters (located along the entrance road off of Highway 94 just north of the intersection with Highway 264; look for the refuge sign just before Highway 94 crosses the lake).

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Trip No. 4: Lake Phelps/Pocosin Lakes NWR.

Meet your guide at 1:00 PM at the Tyson Farms grain elevators. This spot is reached by turning to the right (south) off US 64 at Roper onto Newland Road (SR 112) and going about seven miles to the intersection of SR 1183. The field edges in this area can produce some of the rarer sparrows. Lapland Longspurs have been found, and Lake Phelps often had a flock of Common Mergansers. This area is also a winter home to Short-eared Owls; but staying until dusk to see the owls will cause one to be late reaching Nag's Head, 75+ miles distant.

Trip No. 5: Alligator River NWR.

Meet at 1:00 PM at the paved parking lot where Milltail Road meets US 64 in mainland Dare County about three miles west of the US 64/264 intersection. We will bird the Creef Cut Trail to an observation platform overlooking the wildlife management area. The thick vegetation along the roads throughout the refuge produced a good number of rarer sparrows last winter. Look for the Rough-legged Hawk that returned this fall to winter among the Northern Harriers. Also there is a good chance of seeing a Short-eared Owls along Milltail Road close to dusk.

Trip No. 6: Hatteras Point.

Meet your guide at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot at 1:00 PM Bird Pea Island on the return to Nag's Head.

Trip No. 7: Pea Island (South and North Pond).

Leave the Comfort Inn parking lot at 1:00 PM and caravan to the entrance road to South Pond of Pea Island where a US Fish & Wildlife Service guide will meet and lead you into South Pond. Do not park on the soft highway shoulders unless driving a 4-WD. Do not enter until the official guide is present. See admonition above under "Notice." After birding South Pond, bird North Pond dikes. If time permits, stop by the parking lot at south side of Oregon Inlet Bridge or at the Bodie Island pond on return to the hotel.

Trip No. 8: Bodie Island/Pea Island.

Meet at the parking lot of the Bodie Island Lighthouse at 1:30 PM and survey the Bodie Island Pond for shorebirds, waders and waterfowl. Walk the gravel roads and trails to look for nuthatches, wintering warblers and other Passerines. A pair of Great Horned Owls may be present in the tall pines west of the lighthouse. The cross Oregon Inlet and go to the parking lot at the old Coast Guard station to look for Purple Sandpipers and sea ducks. Then to the north and south dikes at North Pond.

Trip No. 9: Nags Head Woods.

Depart the hotel parking lot at 1:30 PM for the Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve. This 1,200 acre property is one of the largest and most well-preserved maritime forests remaining in the east. Unique to the barrier island ecosystem, it is home to numerous species of reptiles and amphibians, mammals and invertebrates in addition to birds. Hike the trails looking for wintering woodland birds in some of the oldest and largest trees on the island. You will also have the unique opportunity to bird the open dunes and intra-dunal ponds and wetlands. The trip should end around Noon.

Saturday Field Trips

Please read the comments regarding restaurants, lunch, etc. on "Where to Eat" insert in registration packet.

Trip No. 10: Pelagic Trip.

The *Miss Hatteras* will leave at 6:30 AM from Oden's Dock in Hatteras Village (about 60 miles south of the Comfort Inn; driving time is about 1 3/4 hours). The trip is **not** restricted to CBC members and may fill quickly. Reservations should be made directly with Brian Patteson at PO Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943; phone (252) 986-1363; emailBrian@Patteson.com. The charge for the trip is at a reduced fee of $90 per person (before Dec. 1; after $100) payable in advance directly to Brian. Participants will need to provide their own food and drink. See your October/ November newsletter or visit http://www.patteson.com/ for more details.

Trip No. 11: Hatteras Point/Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry/Pea Island. (All-day)

Depart the hotel parking lot at 7:00 AM and reassemble at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot (east of Buxton – see map in registration packet) at 8:00 AM to bird Hatteras Point (4-WD only on the beach). There is always a possibility of rare gulls at the point and a good variety of waterfowl on the salt pond. Then catch the ferry from Hatteras Village to Ocracoke. Then try to turn around and return on the same ferry. You should see a variety of birds, including perhaps Brant, Oldsquaw and Red-throated Loon, from ferry. Bird North Pond and south side of Oregon Inlet in the afternoon.

Trip No. 12: Pea Island/Hatteras Point/Pea Island. (All-day)

Depart the hotel parking lot at 7:15 AM and proceed to South Pond. See admonition under 'Notice' above. Depart South Pond in time to arrive at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot (east of Buxton – see map in registration packet) at 10:30 AM and bird Hatteras Point. After a lunch break return to bird North Pond and Bodie Island pond in the afternoon.

Trip No. 13: Oregon Inlet/Pea Island/Hatteras Point. (All-day)

Depart hotel parking lot at 7:30 AM and bird north and south dikes of North Pond. Meet guide at South Pond at 10:00 AM. See admonition under "Notice." Depart South

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Pond in time to arrive at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking area (east of Buxton – see map in registration packet) by 12:30 PM to bird Hatteras Point. Return north to park at the old Coast Guard station parking lot and bird south of Oregon Inlet.

Trip No. 14: Oregon Inlet/North Pond. (Half-day)
Depart hotel parking lot at 7:00 AM and go to old Coast Guard Station parking lot to bird the south side of Oregon Inlet (to include breakwater for Purple Sandpiper, eiders, etc.). Then bird north and south dikes of North Pond. Check the ocean opposite North Pond visitor's center.

Trip No. 15: Bodie Island/Pea Island. (Half-day)
Depart hotel parking lot at 7:15 AM and bird Bodie Island pond and trails. Proceed to the marina and south side of Oregon Inlet to look for sparrows and wading birds in the marsh. Bird North Pond until about Noon.

Trip No. 16: Nags Head/Wanchese. (Half-day)
Assemble at hotel parking lot at 7:30 AM and walk over to the beach side to ocean watch. Early AM is the most productive time for loons, grebes (possibly Red-necked), gannets, scoters, ete. Then drive to Wanchese Harbor where your experienced guide will help you polish your gull id skills.

Trip No. 17: Bodie Island/Pea Island. (Half-day)
Same as Trip No. 15 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:00 PM

Trip No. 18: Wanchese/Nags Head. (Half-day)
Same as Trip No. 16 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:30 PM

Trip No. 19: Alligator River NWR. (Half-day)
Same as Trip No. 5 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:30 PM

Sunday Field Trips

Trip No. 20: Pine Island Sanctuary. (Half-day)
Depart from the hotel at 7:30 AM and head to Audubon's Pine Island Sanctuary north of Duck. We will have a unique opportunity to explore this sanctuary that is normally closed to the public. There should be ample time to look for wintering water birds as well as scan the sound for flocks of sea ducks, geese and swans. The trip will wrap up around lunchtime.

Other Sunday trips to be announced based on Saturday's results.

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting Registration Form

January 25-27, 2002

Name:_____ Day Phone:_____

Address:_____ Evening Phone:_____

City:_____ ST:_____ ZIP: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is a check for $_____ for ____ member ($10) registration(s) and/or _____ nonmember ($20) registration(s).
Please include names not listed above: _____

___This my [our] first time attending a CBC meeting.

Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club & send to: CBC, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601-1029

Field Trip Reservation

Please indicate which field trip(s) you wish to participate in by writing the trip number and name(s) of participants next to the day and time.

	Trip #	Name of Participant(s)
Friday Morning	_____	_____
Friday Afternoon	_____	_____
Saturday All Day	_____	_____
Saturday Morning	_____	_____
Saturday Afternoon	_____	_____
Sunday Morning	_____	_____

_____ I[we] have a 4 wheel-drive vehicle which can be used for car pooling which can accommodate _____ additional people.

Please send to form by **January 10th** to: **Carolina Bird Club, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601-1029**

Christmas Counts of Interest to Carolina Birders

Note: There are more counts in the Carolinas. These are only the ones I was able to get dates for at the time the newsletter went to print. Please check the Carolina Bird Club Web Site for any additions or corrections.

Alligator River NWR **12/16/01**
Jeff Lewis, 252-473-1086

Bodie-Pea Island, NC **12/28/01**
Paul Sykes, 706-769-9436/542-1237 paul_sykes@usgs.gov

Brevard, NC **12/14/01**
Norma Siebenheller, 828-884-5443 sieb@citcom.net

Buncombe County, NC **12/30/01**
Marilyn Westphal, 828-251-6823/891-9896 mjwestphal@unca.edu

Cape Hatteras, NC **12/27/01**
Pat Moore, 252-995-4777 topatneal@aol.com

Central Beaufort, NC **12/16/01**
Jim Albera, 252-964-2192

Chapel Hill, NC **12/23/01**
Will Cook, 919-260-4950 cwcook@duke.edu

Charleston, SC **12/23/01**
Bob Chinn, 843-552-7884 rchinn@awod.com

Charlotte, NC **12/29/00**
Wayne Covington, 704-362-1774 jacoving@bellsouth.net

Clemson, SC
J. Drew Lanham, 864-656-7294 jlanham@bellsouth.net

Cleveland County, NC **12/15/01**
Jo Ann Martin, 828-453-7400 jamloon@blueridge.net

Columbia, SC **12/15/01**
Robin Carter/Caroline Eastman, 803-782-8820 rcarter@sc.rr.com

Congaree Swamp N. M., SC **12/16/01**
Robin Carter/Caroline Eastman, 803-782-8820 rcarter@sc.rr.com

Dare County **12/15/01**
Jeff Lewis, 252-473-1086 egardens@inteliport.com

Durham, NC **12/16/01**
Mike Schultz, 919-490-6761 mschultz@duke.edu

Falls Lake, NC **12/29/01**
Brian Bockhahn, 919-676-1027 birdranger@excite.com

Gaston County, NC **12/29/01**
Duane Crane, 704-866-7527/922-6338 Crane.Duane@gaston.cc.nc.us

Grayson Highlands, VA **01/05/02**
Allen Boynton, 540-677-1204 aboynton@smyth.net

Guilford County, NC **12/15/01**
Elizabeth Link, 336-273-4672

Henderson County, NC **12/16/01**
Wayne K. Forsythe, 828-697-6628 wforsythe@a-o.com

Highlands Plateau **12/14/01**
Buck Trott, 828-526-4645/526-9912

Jordan Lake, NC **12/30/01**
Carol Williamson, 919-383-2364 carolw@sandler-recht.com

Kitty Hawk, NC **12/15/01**
Jeff Lewis, 252-473-1086 egardens@inteliport.com

Lake Wateree **01/04/02**
Donna Slyce Bailey, 803-712-6138 dsbailey@conterra.com

Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC **01/02/02**
Jack Peachey, 843-347-5810 ppaw@sccoast.net
Tonya Spires, 843-397-0384 tonya2ztf@hotmail.com

McClellanville, SC **12/15/01**
Perry Nugent, 843-556-3841 perryandchrisnugent@prodigy.net

Mt. Jefferson, NC **12/15/01**
Vaughn Morrison, 336-877-8795 elm1@skybest.com

New Bern, NC **12/17/01**
Bob Holmes, 252-633-3003

New River, NC **12/22/01**
James Coman, 336-359-2909 hillshepherd@skybest.com

Pamlico County, NC **12/18/01**
Liz Lathrop, 252-249-2646 harbinger@cconnect.net

Pee Dee NWR, NC **01/05/02**
Laura Fogo, 704-694-4424 Laura_Fogo@fws.gov

Raleigh, NC **12/15/01**
John Gerwin, 919-715-2600 ncs1416@interpath.com

Raven Rock State Park, NC **12/15/01**
Paul Hart, 910-893-4888 ravenroc@infi.net

Santee NWR, SC **12/29/01**
Lex Glover, 803-438-9855 bglvr@clemson.edu

Savannah River NWR, SC **12/05/01**
Steve Calver

South Lake Norman, NC **12/16/00**
Taylor Piephoff, 704-532-6336 PiephoffT@aol.com

Southern Pines, NC **12/16/01**
Susan M. Campbell, 910-949-3207 NCaves@utinet.net

Southport, NC
Ricky Davis, 252-443-0276 RJDNC@aol.com

Spartanburg, SC **12/28/01**
Lyle Campbell, 864-503-5751/503-5751 lcampbell@gw.uscs.edu

Stone Mountain, NC **12/29/01**
John Mac Connell, 336-384-1162 jgmac@fastransit.net

Tryon, NC **12/22/01**
Martha Frederick, 828-859-6597 mbirder@alltel.net

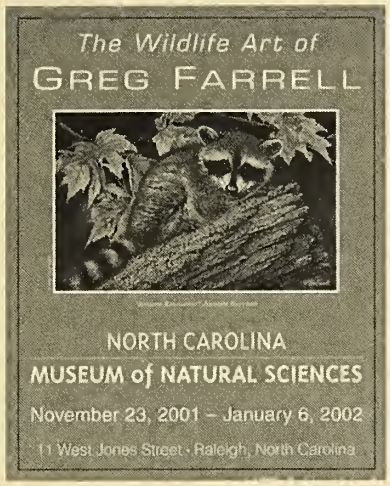
Winston-Salem, NC **12/29/01**
David Disher, 336-765-9356 ddisher@concentric.net

Wilmington, NC
Sam Cooper, 910-392-9253 samwilm@aol.com

York/Rock Hill, SC **12/11/01**
Bill Hilton, Jr., 803-684-5852 research@hiltonpond.org

Wildlife Artist to Appear at NC Museum of Natural History

Come meet Greg Farrell, wildlife artist and federal duck stamp competitor. Greg, who is from Lexington, NC, will be at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in the Museum Store on November 30th and December 8th (from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.) to discuss his work and sign exhibition posters. Plan to do some holiday shopping. REMEMBER, Friends members receive 20% discount in the Museum Store from November 30 to December 9.



Way Down Upon the Pee Dee

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
Wadesboro, NC

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide piedmont wintering habitat for ducks and geese. However, this refuge of over 8,000 acres provides refuge for a wide variety of other birds as well. On this field trip we will wander through fields and forest looking for both waterfowl and sparrows. During the winter just about anything can show up on the refuge. Christmas Counts average around 110 species with notable species being Lark Sparrow and Sedge Wrens.

We will meet at the Refuge Office at 7:30 AM. The leader will provide directions when you contact her. Plan to bring food and water. Dress warmly and be prepared for a lot of walking on some uneven terrain.

When: Saturday, February 9th
Leader: Judy Walker, 704-537-8181 or birdwalker@mac.com
Cost: $10.00
Limit: 12 people

How to Register: First contact the lead to make sure there is room on the trip. Then fill out the form below and mail it and the registration fee to: **Carolina Bird Club, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601-1029.** Make checks payable to: Carolina Bird Club.

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
Saturday, February 9, 2002

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ St:____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email _____

Enclosed is a check for $ _____ for _____ participants.

Carolina Bird Club Officers

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The CBC Newsletter is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas. CBC is a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Founded in 1937 the membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to the CBC Newsletter editor: Judy Walker, 7639 Farm Gate Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215 birdwalker@mac.com Submission deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Submit membership applications and change of address to:
CBC Headquarters Secretary
11 W. Jones St.,
Raleigh, NC 27601-1029

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Welcome New Members

Jadon Carr
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Jo Ann & Ralph Covington
Charlotte, NC

Donna Johnston
Pisgah Forest, NC

Joan Malcolm Macdonald
Brevard, NC

Charles Stohr
Pisgah Forest, NC

Bob Winstead
Raleigh, NC

Deceased

Juanita Krebs
Matthews, NC

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